



NATIONAL
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SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES

Week of: Nov 27-Dec 3, 2006

Number: 39

Released: Dec 4, 2006

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 3, 2006

The Commonwealth experienced unseasonably warm temperatures this week with very little rainfall. Days suitable for field work were 4.8. Temperatures were above normal with highs around 75 degrees, and low temperatures just below freezing. The state received an average of 0.13 inches of rainfall this week. Wet field conditions and high humidity continued to hinder soybean harvest and small grain planting. While fields in some areas dried out enough for field work, many soybean producers are still being delayed by high moisture content and wet soils. Wheat planting has been delayed due to the delay in harvesting soybeans. Some wheat fields that have been seeded are showing signs of stress from excess moisture, but overall moisture conditions are good for small grains, cover crops, and pastures. Warm temperatures have helped sustain pasture growth allowing livestock to continue to graze, but many producers are beginning supplemental feeding. Strawberry plants have responded well to the warmer-than-normal temperatures and are in good shape to enter winter dormancy. Other field activities this week included spraying for aphids in wheat fields, winterizing and storing equipment, attending pesticide re-certification meetings, cleaning ditches, and cutting firewood.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 5, 2006	0	1	84	15
November 12, 2006	0	1	74	25
November 19, 2006	0	0	64	36
November 26, 2006	0	2	54	44
December 3, 2006	0	2	64	34

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 3, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	76	25	50	9	0.16	-0.42	2
Warrenton	74	27	50	10	0.14	-0.63	2
Winchester 7 SE	76	24	48	9	0.12	-0.53	1
Dale Enterprises	72	25	48	9	0.13	-0.45	2
WESTERN							
Glasgow	78	30	51	10	0.44	-0.26	2
Roanoke AP	77	34	55	13	0.11	-0.59	2
Waynesboro	74	30	50	12	0.02	-0.61	1
Staunton AG	72	28	53	14	0.08	-0.55	1
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	75	30	54	12	0.11	-0.55	2
Piedmont Res ST	74	31	53	12	0.15	-0.62	2
Bremo Bluff	78	29	52	9	0.03	-0.67	1
Richmond AP	77	38	58	13	0.01	-0.69	1
EASTERN							
Eastville	75	39	55	8	0.10	-0.67	1
Wallops Island	70	37	53	7	0.01	-0.63	1
Williamsburg	76	39	56	10	0.37	-0.41	3
Keysville	75	31	53	11	0.08	-0.62	1
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	72	29	50	12	0.15	-0.48	2
Wytheville	72	25	50	12	0.02	-0.58	1
Saltville	71	25	50	10	0.45	-0.27	3
Richlands	71	26	50	15	0.10	-0.67	1
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	74	31	54	12	0.14	-0.68	2
Danville AG	77	30	53	9	0.14	-0.56	1
Chatham	75	26	50	8	0.08	-0.69	1
Martinsville	76	25	51	10	0.01	-0.76	1
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	76	38	57	10	0.08	-0.62	2
Oceana	77	38	58	10	0.08	-0.62	1
Emporia	76	33	55	12	0.14	-0.63	2
Newport News	78	41	60	12	0.12	-0.58	1

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of November 27-December 3, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	2	13	69	16
Other Hay	3	15	31	37	14
Alfalfa Hay	3	19	32	27	19
Winter Wheat	0	3	23	56	18
Barley	0	1	17	64	18

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Soybeans	85	75	95	88
Winter Wheat Seeded	90	83	97	92
Winter Wheat Emerged	75	66	64	47
Cotton Harvested	98	91	99	94

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES		
Crop	This Week	Last Week
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	63	69
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	14
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	67	73

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Preparing for feeding, hunting, weaning calves, moving stock to wintering pastures are chief activities.

getting very worried about harvesting soybeans still in fields, being able to fill contracts on time, planting wheat and having cash to pay bills. Not a good situation.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Fields dried out sufficiently for farmers to finish up most harvesting and planting activities this past week. Moisture conditions remain excellent. Small grains, cover crops and pastures are doing very well. Farmers are winterizing and storing equipment, attending pesticide re-certification meetings, and harvesting deer.

ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):

There was no rain this week, but high humidity levels did not allow soybeans to dry down in the field very well. Some beans were harvested, but moisture levels were above optimum levels. Some small grain fields are showing the effects of excess moisture, but overall the crop looks pretty good and warm temperatures this week stimulated growth. Producers continued to make seed selections for 2007 and forward price crops for 2007.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Soybeans cannot be harvested due to high moisture content of bean and wet soils. Wheat cannot be planted due to wet soils and soybeans that have not been harvested. Growers are

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

We are still waiting for some good soybean harvest weather. Some producers are harvesting at 17-18% moisture and either drying or taking the penalty. Producers are anxious to get this bean season behind them. Some last minute small grain planting continues, but most is done. Small grains look good. Fields need some scouting for aphids and weeds. Producers are contracting grain and making planting decisions for next year. Planning for winter meetings continue as well as farm clean up.

NEW KENT COUNTY (Paul Davis):

Farmers finished soybean harvest and planting small grain finally. The 70 degree temperatures this week have helped pastures and small grain crops catch up from all the wet/cold over the past weeks.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY (Matt Lewis):

Field activities this week included spraying for aphids in wheat fields and taking soil samples. Mainly, farmers have been booking inputs for next year, especially corn and soybean seed. Additionally, farmers are constructing grain storage this fall and winter at an unprecedented rate- lots of 30, 40, 50, and even 60 thousand bushel tanks are either planned or under construction on area farms.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

Some soybean harvest took place where fields were dry enough to work. Fogs are keeping beans wet late in the day, making for short harvest days. Many low fields still have water standing from previous weeks' rains making combining difficult. Broccoli harvest continues with the mild temperatures. Some late wheat planting also continues.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

Unusually warm temperatures helped producers finish up fall harvests, and gave those late planted winter crops some help in establishment.

SMYTH COUNTY (Walter Robinson):

It hasn't rained any appreciable amount for at least two weeks but moisture in the soil is still good for this time of year.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Warmer-than-normal temperatures have triggered a slight grass growth that will help extend the grazing period slightly. Many farms have already started to feed from their winter stockpiles. Local farmers marketed a large number of cattle at the local market which was high this past week. Main farm work for the week consisted of maintenance, feeding, and livestock care.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann):

Strawberry plants responded to recent warm weather and are of good size to enter winter dormancy. Wet field conditions and high humidity continue to slow harvest of remaining soybeans. Farmers are cleaning ditches, cutting firewood and deer hunting.

AMHERST COUNTY (William W. Seay):

Some producers are just beginning to feed hay. Most producers have grass due to beneficial rains and warm temperatures.



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